

## [CHAPTER 553]

## AN ACT

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain of the public lands to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for the extraction of sodium chloride for water-conditioning purposes.

July 8, 1940  
[H. R. 6831]  
[Public, No. 731]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, pursuant to the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to promote the mining of coal, phosphate, oil, oil shale, gas, and sodium on the public domain", approved February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended, and notwithstanding any limitations contained therein with respect to the leasing of public mineral lands to municipalities, to lease to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California public lands containing deposits of sodium solely for the extraction therefrom of sodium chloride for water-conditioning purposes: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to empower the said district to produce sodium chloride or any other valuable deposit in said lands for commercial purposes. The use of such lands may be acquired by the said district either through the filing and issuance of prospecting permits or leases or through the assignment to it by qualified holders of such permits or leases.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.  
Leasing of public lands to.

30 U. S. C. § 22, etc.;  
Supp. V.

*Proriso.*  
Restriction on commercial production of sodium chloride, etc.

SEC. 2. The leases authorized by section 1 shall be granted upon the condition that if such lands or deposits are used for purposes other than as authorized by this Act, or upon the exhaustion of the deposits of sodium chloride in such lands, the permits or leases may be canceled by the Secretary of the Interior.

Cancellation of leases,  
etc.

Approved, July 8, 1940.

## [CHAPTER 554]

## AN ACT

To provide for the leasing of restricted allotments of deceased Indians in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

July 8, 1940  
[H. R. 8024]  
[Public, No. 732]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That restricted allotments of deceased Indians may be leased, except for oil and gas mining purposes, by the superintendents of the reservation within which the lands are located (1) when the heirs or devisees of such decedents have not been determined and (2) when the heirs or devisees of the decedents have been determined, and such lands are not in use by any of the heirs and the heirs have not been able during a three-months' period to agree upon a lease by reason of the number of the heirs, their absence from the reservation, or for other cause, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe. The proceeds derived from such leases shall be credited to the estates or other accounts of the individuals entitled thereto in accordance with their respective interests.

Leasing of restricted allotments of deceased Indians; exception.

Conditions.

Crediting of proceeds.

Approved, July 8, 1940.

## [CHAPTER 555]

## AN ACT

Relating to adoption of minors by Indians.

July 8, 1940  
[H. R. 8499]  
[Public, No. 733]

Adoption of minors  
by Indians.  
Recognition in probate  
matters.  
Conditions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, in probate matters under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, no person shall be recognized as an heir of a deceased Indian by virtue of an adoption—

(1) Unless such adoption shall have been—

(a) by a judgment or decree of a State court;

(b) by a judgment or decree of an Indian court;

(c) by a written adoption approved by the superintendent of the agency having jurisdiction over the tribe of which either the adopted child or the adoptive parent is a member, and duly recorded in a book kept by the superintendent for that purpose; or

(d) by an adoption in accordance with a procedure established by the tribal authority, recognized by the Department of the Interior, of the tribe either of the adopted child or the adoptive parent, and duly recorded in a book kept by the tribe for that purpose; or

(2) Unless such adoption shall have been recognized by the Department of the Interior prior to the effective date of this Act or in the distribution of the estate of an Indian who has died prior to that date: *Provided*, That an adoption by Indian custom made prior to the effective date of this Act may be made valid by recordation with the superintendent if both the adopted child and the adoptive parent are still living, if the adoptive parent requests that the adoption be recorded, and if the adopted child is an adult and makes such a request or the superintendent on behalf of a minor child approves of the recordation.

*Proviso.*  
Adoption by Indian  
custom.

Nonapplication of  
Act.

SEC. 2. This Act shall not apply with respect to the distribution of the estates of Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes or the Osage Tribe in the State of Oklahoma, or with respect to the distribution of estates of Indians who have died prior to the effective date of this Act.

Effective date.

SEC. 3. This Act shall become effective six months after the date of its approval.

Approved, July 8, 1940.

## [CHAPTER 565]

## AN ACT

To authorize exchanges of lands within the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona.

July 10, 1940  
[S. 3972]  
[Public, No. 734]

Navajo Indian Res-  
ervation, Ariz.  
Exchange of lands  
within.

Issuance of patent.

*Proviso.*  
Sufficiency of title.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to exchange tribal lands within the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona for privately owned mineral lands of approximately equal value within the boundary of such reservation. Upon conveyance to the United States in trust for the Navajo Indians of the lands being acquired by the United States, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to issue a patent in fee covering the lands granted in exchange: *Provided*, That the sufficiency of title to all such lands acquired by the United States shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

Approved, July 10, 1940.